

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2006. New claims 14-15 have been added. Claims 1 and 3-15 are now pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sato in view of Hieber. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed, for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires that *the heater and the thermocouple are provided on opposite sides of the wafer*. For example and without limitation, Fig. 1 of the instant application illustrates heater 103 and thermocouple 106 provided on opposite sides of wafer 101. This is advantageous in that the heater does not heat the thermocouple as much, thereby allowing the cooling channels to more efficiently cool the thermocouple(s) and/or temperature measuring section.

The cited art fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid italicized subject matter of amended claim 1. In particular, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest the heater and thermocouple provided on opposite sides of a wafer as recited in claim 1. Instead, Sato teaches directly away from this because Sato requires that the heater is located inside the rotating shaft (e.g., see Sato at col. 13, lines 42-44; col. 14, lines 17-20). Citation to Hieber cannot cure the aforesaid flaws of Sato. Thus, even the alleged combination of Sato and Hieber fails to meet claim 1 which requires that the heater and the thermocouple are provided on opposite sides of the wafer.

Claim 11 requires that the temperature sensing device and the heater are provided on opposite sides of the wafer. Again, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 11.

Claims 14-15 require that *the heater and the hollow shaft are provided on opposite sides of the wafer*. The cited art fails to disclose or suggest this subject matter of claims 14-15.

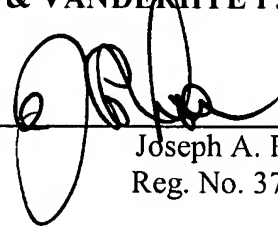
Instead, Sato teaches directly away from this because Sato requires that the heater is located *inside* the rotating shaft (e.g., see Sato at col. 13, lines 42-44; col. 14, lines 17-20), which is the opposite of what claims 14-15 require.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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